

III-13

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE INDEPENDENT AMERICAN STATES HAVE DECLARED WITH ONE VOICE THAT THE CONCEPT OF MARXIST LENINISM IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM": Statement Read by the President (Kennedy) at a News Conference, January 31, 1962⁴⁸

I want to express my satisfaction, and I believe that of all Americans, at the action taken by the Organization of American States at the Punta del Este conference. Six resolutions, representing a six-point program, were passed by the conference early this morning.⁴⁹ Not a single nation joined Cuba in voting against these resolutions. The 20 other nations of this conference joined in a vigorous declaration against Communist penetration of this hemisphere, in full support for the Alliance for Progress, and to expel Cuba from the Inter-American Defense Board. For the first time, the independent American states have declared with one voice that the concept of Marxist Leninism is incompatible with the inter-American system, and they have taken explicit steps to protect the hemisphere's ability to achieve progress with freedom.